

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 12, 13, 22, 23, 29 through 32 and 35, and add claims 50 through 53, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A container manager, comprising:

a housing comprised of a plurality of sidewalls bearing a removable lid, forming a container having a closed interior while said lid is in complete engagement with said housing, and providing an open interior able to removably receive items within said open interior while said lid is dislodged from said complete engagement;

a port ~~borne by said housing and exposed~~ disposed to conduct data signals through said housing ~~to accommodate conduction of transmission of data signals between said closed interior and an environment external to said housing;~~

a control stage comprised of a memory storing information specific to said container, said control stage being mounted entirely within and being completely encased by said container during said complete engagement, and being operationally coupled to provide communication with said interior via said port, and generating a control signal in dependence upon disposition of said port relative to a source of said data signals, in dependence upon disposition of said container within a scheme for generation of said data signals, and in response to occurrence of a coincidence between a data key received among said data signals via said port and a data sequence obtained by said control stage in dependence upon said information stored within said memory; and

18 a moveable latch disposed to engage said lid and hinder removal of said lid
19 from said complete engagement, and to respond to said control signal by releasing said
20 lid from said complete engagement.

1 2. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of a socket
2 mounted within said housing providing said port.

1 3. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of an infrared
2 receiver mounted within said housing providing said port.

1 4. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of an antenna
2 mounted within said housing providing said port.

1 5. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of:
2 a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said
3 controller via said port, generating said data key; and
4 a data cable coupling said host computer to said port.

1 6. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of:
2 a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said
3 controller via said port, generating said data key; and

4 a local area network coupling said host computer to said port.

1 7. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of:

2 a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said
3 controller via said port, generating said data key;

4 said port comprising a first antenna mounted on one of said sidewalls;

5 a data transceiver connecting said first antenna and said controller; and

6 a second antenna driven by said host computer, operationally connecting
7 said host computer to said first antenna.

1 8. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of:

2 a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said
3 controller via said port, generating said data key;

4 an infrared transmitter driven by said host computer to broadcast an
5 infrared signal corresponding to said data key; and

6 an infrared receiver mounted in one of said sidewalls, disposed to receive
7 said data key from said infrared transmitter.

1 9. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of:

2 a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said
3 controller via said port, generating said data key;

4 a first infrared transmitter and receiver driven by said host computer to
5 broadcast an infrared signal corresponding to said data key; and

6 a second infrared transmitter and receiver mounted in one of said sidewalls,
7 disposed to receive said data key from said infrared transmitter, and to transmit
8 operational communications from said controller to said host computer via said first
9 infrared transmitter and receiver.

1 10. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of:

2 said controller generating an alarm signal in response to an unauthorized
3 interruption of said communication via said port; and

4 an alarm driven by said controller to broadcast an indication of said
5 unauthorized interruption in response to said alarm signal.

1 11. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of:

2 a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said
3 controller via said port, periodically making a determination of whether said an
4 unauthorized interruption of said communication has occurred; and

5 an alarm driven by said host computer to broadcast an indication of said
6 unauthorized interruption in dependence upon said determination.

1 12. (Currently Amended) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of:

2 said controller generating an alarm signal in response to an unauthorized
3 interruption of said communication via said port;

4 a first alarm driven by said host computer to broadcast an indication of said
5 unauthorized interruption in response to said alarm signal;

6 a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said
7 controller via said port, periodically making a determination of whether said ~~an~~
8 unauthorized interruption of said communication has occurred; and

9 a second alarm driven by said host computer to broadcast an indication of
10 said unauthorized interruption in dependence upon said determination.

1 13. (Currently Amended) A container manager, comprising:

2 a housing comprised of a plurality of sidewalls bearing a ~~removable~~
3 movable lid, forming a container having a closed interior while said lid is in complete
4 engagement with said housing, and providing an open interior able to removably receive
5 ~~items~~ cargo within said open interior ~~while~~ after movement of said lid ~~is dislodged~~ from
6 said complete engagement;

7 a port mounted ~~within~~ to pass data signals ~~said housing and exposed~~
8 through said housing ~~to receive data signals; and~~

9 a ~~control stage~~ controller comprised of a memory storing information
10 specific to said container, said ~~control stage~~ controller being mounted entirely within said
11 container, being completely encased by said container during said complete engagement,

12 and being operationally coupled to provide communication by data signals with said
13 interior via said port and to operationally respond to data signals received from sources
14 external to said container via said port by regulating said movement in dependence upon
15 said information, and ~~generating~~ establish an alarm ~~signal~~ condition in response to an
16 unauthorized interruption of said communication via said port; ~~and~~
17 ~~an alarm driven by said controller to broadcast an indication of said~~
18 ~~unauthorized interruption in response to said alarm signal.~~

1 14. (Original) The container manager of claim 13, further comprised of a socket
2 mounted within said housing providing said port.

1 15. (Original) The container manager of claim 13, further comprised of an
2 infrared receiver mounted within said housing providing said port.

1 16. (Original) The container manager of claim 13, further comprised of an antenna
2 mounted within said housing providing said port.

1 17. (Original) The container manager of claim 13, further comprised of:
2 a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said
3 controller via said port, generating said data signals; and
4 a data cable coupling said host computer to said port while conveying said

5 data signals to said controller via said port.

1 18. (Original) The container manager of claim 13, further comprised of:

2 a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said
3 controller via said port, generating said data signals; and

4 a local area network coupling said host computer to said port while
5 conveying said data signals to said controller via said port.

1 19. (Original) The container manager of claim 13, further comprised of:

2 a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said
3 controller via said port, generating said data signals;

4 said port comprising a first antenna mounted on one of said sidewalls;

5 a data transceiver connecting said first antenna and said controller; and

6 a second antenna driven by said host computer, operationally connecting
7 said host computer to said first antenna while conveying said data signals to said
8 controller via said first antenna.

1 20. (Original) The container manager of claim 13, further comprised of:

2 a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said
3 controller via said port, generating said data signals;

4 an infrared transmitter driven by said host computer to broadcast an

5 infrared signal corresponding to said data signals; and

6 an infrared receiver mounted in one of said sidewalls, disposed to receive
7 and convey to said controller said data signals from said infrared transmitter.

1 21. (Original) The container manager of claim 13, further comprised of:

2 a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said
3 controller via said port, generating said data key;

4 a first infrared transmitter and receiver driven by said host computer to
5 broadcast an infrared signal corresponding to said data key; and

6 a second infrared transmitter and receiver mounted in one of said sidewalls,
7 disposed to receive said data key from said infrared transmitter, and to transmit
8 operational communications from said controller to said host computer via said first
9 infrared transmitter and receiver.

1 22. (Currently Amended) The container manager of claim 14, further comprised
2 of:

3 said controller generating a control signal in response to occurrence of a
4 coincidence between a data key received via said port and a data sequence obtained by
5 said control stage in dependence upon information stored within said memory; and

6 an electromechanical latch responding to an absence of said control signal
7 by hindering ~~removal~~ said movement of said lid from said complete engagement.

1 23. (Currently Amended) A container manager, comprising:

2 a housing comprised of a plurality of sidewalls bearing a removable lid,
3 forming a container having a closed interior while said lid is in complete engagement
4 with said housing, and providing an open interior able to removably receive items within
5 said open interior while said lid is dislodged from said complete engagement;

6 a port ~~exposed through one of said sidewalls to receive~~ disposed to conduct
7 data signals through said housing;

8 a control stage comprised of a memory, said control stage being mounted on
9 said container and being operationally coupled to provide communication with said
10 interior via said port, and generating a control signal in response to occurrence of a
11 coincidence between a data key received among said data signals via said port and a data
12 sequence obtained by said control stage in dependence upon information stored within
13 said memory, in dependence upon disposition of said port relative to a source of said data
14 signals and in dependence upon disposition of said container within a timed scheme for
15 generation of said data signals;

16 a microprocessor based host computer sited externally to said container,
17 said host computer comprising a keyboard initiating formation of said data signals and a
18 monitor driven by said host computer to visually display video images, said host
19 computer being operationally coupled to said port and participating in said
20 communication by generating said data signals; and

21 an electromechanical latch disposed to engage said lid and hinder removal
22 of said lid from said complete engagement, and to respond to said control signal by
23 releasing said lid from said complete engagement.

1 24. (Original) The container manager of claim 23, further comprised of a data
2 cable coupling said host computer to said port.

1 25. (Original) The container manager of claim 24, further comprised of a local
2 area network coupling said host computer to said port.

1 26. (Original) The container manager of claim 25, further comprised of:
2 said port comprising a first antenna mounted on one of said sidewalls;
3 a data transceiver connecting said first antenna and said controller; and
4 a second antenna driven by said host computer, operationally connecting
5 said host computer to said first antenna.

1 27. (Original) The container manager of claim 26, further comprised of:
2 an infrared transmitter driven by said host computer to broadcast an
3 infrared signal corresponding to said data key; and
4 an infrared receiver mounted in one of said sidewalls, disposed to receive
5 said data key from said infrared transmitter.

6 28. (Original) The container manager of claim 27, further comprised of:

7 a first infrared transmitter and receiver driven by said host computer to
8 broadcast an infrared signal corresponding to said data key; and

9 a second infrared transmitter and receiver mounted in one of said sidewalls,
10 disposed to receive said data key from said infrared transmitter, and to transmit
11 operational communications from said controller to said host computer via said first
12 infrared transmitter and receiver.

1 29. (Currently Amended) A container manager, comprising:

2 a housing ~~comprised of a plurality of sidewalls bearing a removable lid,~~
3 ~~forming a container having a closed interior while said lid is in complete engagement~~
4 ~~with said housing, said housing providing~~ selectively opening an open interior able to
5 ~~removably receive items within said open interior while said lid is dislodged from said~~
6 ~~complete engagement~~ and release cargo and enclosing said interior to bar removal of any
7 cargo within said interior;

8 a at least one port exposed disposed to pass data signals through said
9 housing ~~to receive data signals;~~

10 a microprocessor-based control stage encased within said housing,
11 comprised of a memory maintaining information specific to said housing, said control
12 stage ~~being mounted on said container and~~ being operationally coupled to ~~provide~~
13 participate in communication ~~by data signals with~~ from said interior via data signals

14 conducted through said port with a host computer sited externally to said container, said
15 control stage responding to data signals received via said port by selectively
16 accommodating said release from said enclosed interior in dependence upon said
17 information, and creating an alarm condition in response to an unauthorized interruption
18 of said communication via said port[[:]]

19 ~~a microprocessor based host computer sited externally to said container,~~
20 ~~said host computer comprising a keyboard initiating formation of said data signals and a~~
21 ~~monitor driven by said host computer to visually display video images, said host~~
22 ~~computer being operationally coupled to said port and participating in said~~
23 ~~communication by generating said data signals; and~~

24 ~~an alarm driven in response to an unauthorized interruption of said~~
25 ~~communication via said port to broadcast an indication of said unauthorized interruption~~
26 ~~in response to said alarm signal.~~

1 30. (Currently Amended) The container manager of claim 29, further comprised
2 of:

3 said ~~controller~~ control stage generating an alarm signal in response to an
4 unauthorized interruption of said communication via said port; and

5 said alarm being driven by said control stage to broadcast an indication of
6 said unauthorized interruption in response to said alarm ~~signal~~ condition.

1 31. (Currently Amended) The container manager of claim 29, further comprised
2 of:

3 said host computer periodically making a determination while operationally
4 coupled to said ~~controller~~ control stage via said port, of whether said an unauthorized
5 interruption of said communication has occurred; and

6 an alarm driven by said host computer to broadcast an indication of said
7 unauthorized interruption in dependence upon said determination.

1 32. (Currently Amended) The container manager of claim 29, further comprised
2 of:

3 said ~~controller~~ control stage generating an alarm signal in response to an
4 unauthorized interruption of said communication via said port;

5 a first alarm driven by said host computer to broadcast an indication of said
6 unauthorized interruption in response to said alarm signal;

7 said host computer periodically making a determination while operationally
8 coupled to said ~~controller~~ control stage via said port, of whether said an unauthorized
9 interruption of said communication has occurred; and

10 a second alarm driven by ~~said~~ the host computer to broadcast an indication
11 of said unauthorized interruption in dependence upon said determination.

1 33. (Previously Presented) The container manager of claim 29, further comprised

2 of:

3 said data signals exhibiting a first wavelength, and said data signals
4 exhibiting a second and different wavelength carrier signal; and

5 said port being plug coupleable to said control stage, and comprising a
6 transmitter stage converting said data signals into output signals exhibiting said second
7 wavelength, and a receiver stage converting said data signals into input signals exhibiting
8 said first wavelength.

1 34. (Previously Presented) The container manager of claim 29, with said port
2 comprised of:

3 a first unit that is plug coupleable to said control stage when said data
4 signals provided by said control stage exhibit a first wavelength and said data signals
5 received by said port exhibit a second and different wavelength carrier signal, said first
6 unit comprising a receiver stage converting said data signals received by said port into
7 input signals exhibiting said first wavelength, and a transmitter stage converting said data
8 signals provided by said control stage into output signals exhibiting said second
9 wavelength; and

10 a second unit that is plug coupleable to said control stage and
11 interchangeable with said first unit to provide a data connection between said control
12 stage and said host computer when said data signals received by said port exhibit the
13 same wavelength as said data signals provided by said control stage.

1 35. (Currently Amended) A container manager, comprising:

2 a housing comprised of a plurality of sidewalls bearing a removable lid,
3 forming a container having a closed interior while said lid is in complete engagement
4 with said housing, and providing an open interior able to removably receive items within
5 said open interior while said lid is dislodged from said complete engagement;

6 a source of an input signal representing a first class of information,
7 mounted upon and borne by said housing;

8 a port ~~borne by said housing and exposed through said housing~~ disposed to
9 accommodate ~~conduction of~~ transmission of data signals through said housing;

10 a control stage comprised of a memory storing a second class of
11 information specific to said container, said control stage being mounted entirely within
12 and being completely encased by said container during said complete engagement, and
13 being operationally coupled to provide communication with said interior via said port,
14 and generating a control signal in dependence upon disposition of said port relative to an
15 origin of said data signals, in dependence upon said information represented by said input
16 signal, and in response to occurrence of a coincidence between a data key received among
17 said data signals via said port and a data sequence obtained by said control stage in
18 dependence upon said information stored within said memory; and

19 a latch mounted on said housing and disposed to engage said lid and hinder
20 removal of said lid from said complete engagement, and to respond to said control signal

21 by releasing said lid from said complete engagement.

1 36. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said
2 source detecting movement of said lid, and said first class of information indicating said
3 movement.

1 37. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said
2 source detecting a position of said lid, and said first class of information indicating said
3 position.

1 38. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said
2 control stage generating said control signal in response to instructions received by said
3 control stage from said host computer independently of said disposition of said port,
4 independently of said information represented by said input signal, and independently of
5 said occurrence of coincidence.

1 39. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said
2 control stage generating said control signal in dependence of said disposition of said port,
3 in dependence of said information represented by said input signal, in dependence of said
4 occurrence of coincidence, and in response to instructions received by said control stage
5 from a host computer coupled to said port.

1 40. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said
2 container being transportable between an origin and a destination, and said data key being
3 encoded and being available only at destination.

1 41. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said
2 container being transportable between an origin and a destination, and said data key being
3 encoded and being transmitted to said port from said origin.

1 42. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said
2 container being transportable between an origin and a destination, and said data key being
3 encoded and being available only at destination.

1 43. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of a
2 microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said controller via said
3 port, generating said data signals.

1 44. (Original) The container manager of claim 43, further comprised of said host
2 computer comprising a cellular telephone bearing a graphical user interface.

1 45. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of some or

2 all of said data signals being transmitted across or received one of an Internet and a wide
3 area network.

1 46. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said data
2 signals comprising one of an e-mail packet and an attachment to an e-mail message.

1 47. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said
2 information represented by said source comprising a global location of the container, and
3 said control stage generating said control signal in dependence of said disposition of said
4 port, in dependence of said information represented by said input signal, and in
5 dependence of said occurrence of coincidence.

1 48. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said
2 container being transportable between an origin and a destination, and a user at one of
3 said origin and said destination requests via a network a request for some part of said data
4 key.

1 49. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said
2 container being transportable between an origin and a destination, and said second class
3 of information is installed at said origin comprises biometric data matching a person of a
4 human user of said container and said coincidence must be made with biometric data

5 matching said person at said destination.

1 50. (New) A container manager, comprising:

2 a housing selectively opening an interior able to removably receive and
3 release cargo and enclosing said interior to bar removal of any cargo within said interior;

4 a port disposed to pass data signals through said housing ;

5 a microprocessor-based control stage encased within said housing,
6 comprised of a memory maintaining information specific to said housing, said control
7 stage being operationally coupled to participate in communication from said interior via
8 data signals conducted through said port with a host computer sited externally to said
9 container, said control stage responding to data signals received via said port by
10 selectively accommodating said release from said interior in dependence upon said
11 information and disposition of said port relative to a source of said data signals.

1 51. (New) The container manager of claim 50, comprised of said control stage
2 creating an alarm condition in response to an unauthorized interruption of said
3 communication via said port.

1 52. (New) A container manager, comprising:

2 a housing selectively opening an interior able to removably receive and
3 release cargo and enclosing said interior to bar removal of any cargo within said interior;

4 a port disposed to pass data signals through said housing ;

5 a microprocessor-based control stage encased within said housing,
6 comprised of a memory maintaining information specific to said housing, said control
7 stage being operationally coupled to participate in communication from said interior via
8 data signals conducted through said port with a host computer sited externally to said
9 container, said control stage responding to data signals received via said port by
10 selectively accommodating said release from said interior in dependence upon said
11 information and disposition of said port within a timed scheme for generation of said data
12 signals.

1 53. (New) The container manager of claim 52, comprised of said control stage
2 creating an alarm condition in response to an unauthorized interruption of said
3 communication via said port.